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MANUAL

FOR

BAPTIST MISSIONARY CANDIDATES

Supplement I

Medical Work

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General Considerations.

THERE are four essential points which all who would serve Christ as medical or nurse missionaries should keep in the forefront of their contemplation of this service.

(1) That the emphasis has ever to be placed upon the word "missionary." It is in that capacity and with that purpose that they will be sent forth at the end of their training. The prefixes "medical" and "nurse" are nothing more than adjectives of distinction.

(2) That the calling of a medical or nurse missionary is a combination of two ministries, which *together*, and not separately, constitute the vocation. "A medical missionary is a legally qualified medical practitioner, called of God and set apart for the *twofold* work of preaching the Gospel and healing the sick."

(3) That the work of medical missions calls for general, as well as medical, educational culture. The educational preparedness of a medical missionary is not measured solely by the number of medical degrees that have been obtained. At the back of the medical education there is an elemental need for a mind enriched and disciplined by a store of sound learning and general knowledge in both arts and science.

(4) That the medical missionary needs to be one whose physique and capacity for physical endurance are beyond reproach. He must be thoroughly sound and robust.

I. DOCTORS.*

A.—PROFESSIONAL TRAINING.

The medical preparation of intending medical missionaries falls naturally into two distinct sections. There is, first, the ordinary course of medical study through which all medical students have to pass prior to obtaining a registrable medical qualification. There is, second, the period after qualification during which the young medical graduate secures practical experience and follows such specialised courses of instruction as have a bearing upon his coming work in the mission field. A few words with regard to these two sections will fulfil the purpose of this supplement.

(1) *The Pre-Graduate Section.*—This covers a period of at least five years. The intending medical missionary requires to attach himself to one or other of the schools of medicine, and, after deciding which medical qualification he will work for, to pursue the specified course of study for the examinations of the examining body. Bearing in mind that the prospective medical missionary has to face a sphere of service in which, very often, he has to depend upon his own resources, unaided by any fellow practitioner, his work as a medical student should be characterised by thoroughness and by a keen desire to secure a sound working knowledge of his profession. He should display an esprit de corps in entering into the life and work of his school, and for the sake of the vocation that he has adopted, he should strive to maintain high ideals right through his medical student days.

(2) *The Post-Graduate Section.*—This, in practice, will be found to absorb the better part of two years. In the first place, it is of vital importance that every outgoing medical missionary should have held at least one resident

* This section should be read as equally applying to both men and women doctors.

hospital appointment, if possible at a teaching hospital. It is necessary at this stage for the medical candidate to remember that practical surgical experience will prove peculiarly valuable when he enters upon his life work. Then, in the next place, time needs to be found for special courses on such subjects as Tropical Medicine, Eye Diseases, Obstetrics, Bacteriology, etc. The precise amount of time that should be allotted to this part of his preparation must be determined by various conditions, and it will prove a good plan for the candidate to obtain the advice of the Professional Sub-Committee of the M.M.A.

B.—MISSIONARY TRAINING.

The medical missionary is a medical evangelist, and in order that he may be prepared for this aspect of his calling, he needs to possess (1) knowledge of the Bible, particularly of the Gospels and Epistles, and facility in using the knowledge; (2) clear grasp of the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith; (3) clear ideas of Christian Evidences; (4) intelligent acquaintance with the religious beliefs of the people amongst whom he is to labour, and (5) experience of definite evangelistic work, including soul-winning. This preparation may be obtained in various ways, and at different periods during the course of training. The vital point is that in the pressure of the medical work the missionary purpose is not eliminated, but rather incorporated in the life of the intending medical missionary.

This is the more important because experience teaches that during the years of medical study the danger of spiritual drift is very great. There are few opportunities for the culture of the devotional life, and these are easily allowed to slip. The possibilities of active participation in Christian work are very limited, and the scope for missionary studies is small. It is clear, therefore, that whilst little room for a definite course of consecutive

missionary study, on ordinary class lines, can be found within the limits of the usual pre-graduate and post-graduate study, yet it is vitally necessary in almost every case for spiritual help to be provided for the intending medical missionary, coupled with such missionary preparation as can be fitted in at some point before departure for the field.

During the years that the medical missionary candidate is a medical student, the following may be regarded as of very great importance :—

(*a*) Daily maintenance of private prayer and Bible-reading.

(*b*) A course of guided reading arranged in consultation with the M.M.A. and Home Preparation Union.

(*c*) Some practical piece of Christian work on Sundays, in Sunday School Class, Children's Service, Mission Hall, or Open-air work.

During the post-graduate period the prospective medical missionary may find *additional* opportunities in the two following directions :—

(*d*) Lecture courses arranged by the Board of Study.

(*e*) Special courses arranged for medical missionary candidates.

The M.M.A. Secretary will always be glad to arrange interviews with any medicals who may be needing help in the foregoing connection, or to correspond with them. He will also be glad to get into touch with any Baptist medical students who are thinking about missions.

II.—NURSES.

A.—PROFESSIONAL TRAINING.

This training exactly corresponds with that of other trained nurses, and covers a period of at least three years.

Subsequent to obtaining her certificate, the prospective nurse missionary will require to take a course for the C.M.B. In addition, if time allows, distinct advantage can be gained from courses of instruction in dispensing, massage, anæsthetics, instrumental midwifery, and tropical nursing.

B.—MISSIONARY TRAINING.

Prior to commencing her professional training, the nurse missionary candidate may have had opportunities for study in connection with the Home Preparation Union and she may also have engaged in active Christian work at her church. These early opportunities are invalnable, and should be cultivated to the full. The years before hospital training may also give special opportunities for widening the general educational preparedness of the nurse candidate; the importance of this cannot be emphasised too strongly.

During the years of hospital training the intending nurse missionary cannot do better than continue her link with the H.P.U. and join the Nurses' Missionary League. She will at this stage have few opportunities for doing more than maintain her daily devotions with occasional missionary reading, but it will be of interest for nurses to know that the H.P.U. has prepared a special course of reading for nurses which they can take in preference to the ordinary H.P.U. course if their leisure is very limited.

After the hospital training is over, the average nurse missionary candidate will need a special course of missionary preparation at some training institution, and she should seek the advice of the Society in determining her preparation at this juncture.